

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A tufted backing of synthetic fibers or filaments interwoven in a three-dimensional structure, comprising only fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 15 dtex, wherein the tufted backing has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m², a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm².

2. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm².

3. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is finished with finishing agents or surface-active substances.

4. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is finished with finishing agents or surface-active substances.

5. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

6. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

7. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 3, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.

9. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.

10. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 3, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a spunbonded nonwoven ~~a tufted backing~~ from thermoplastic polymer fibers or filaments ~~processed into a spunbonded nonwoven~~, comprising the steps of (i) at least one of bonding fibers or filaments having a titer of 6 to 15 dtex in a portion of the spunbonded nonwoven by needling, and bonding fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 5 dtex in another portion of the spunbonded nonwoven by using one of water jets and a combination of water jets and needling, (ii) and stretching the bonded fibers or filaments by up to 30% in the longitudinal direction, and then (iii) followed by drying and thermosetting.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein a finishing agent is added to the fibers or filaments to improve mobility.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the stretching is performed one of between individual needling stages and after conclusion of the needling operation.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein after thermosetting, an additional treatment is performed with a pair of heated rollers.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein after thermosetting, an additional treatment is performed with a pair of heated rollers.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein surfaces of the rollers have an irregular structure having a surface roughness of 40 to 100 μm .

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein surfaces of the rollers have an irregular structure having a surface roughness of 40 to 100 μm .

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear and hexagonal shapes.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear and hexagonal shapes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear and hexagonal shapes.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven ~~tufted backing~~ has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m², a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction > 60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm² Nm²/g.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm² Nm²/g.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven ~~tufted backing~~ is made only of polyethylene terephthalate and has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m², a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm² Nm²/g.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm² Nm²/g.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven tufted-backing is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven tufted-backing is made only of polypropylene and has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m², a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction > 60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm² Nm²/g.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm² Nm²/g.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven tufted-backing is made only of polypropylene.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the finishing agent is oil.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven has a three-dimensional structure and a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m², a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm³ and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm².

31. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm².

32. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the spunbonded nonwoven is made only of polypropylene.